

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EA/VLC STATUS REPORT NO. 5

1. HUMPHREY-HUNG TRIAL PREPARATIONS (CONF)

WE CONTINUE TO WORK WITH JUSTICE DEPARTMENT LAWYERS TO MAP OUT USE OF THE EVIDENTIARY DOCUMENTS IN THE PROSECUTION'S CASE. AS YET WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WHICH DOCUMENTS WILL BE USED OR WHAT SEQUENCE WILL BE EMPLOYED BUT WE MUST ASSUME THAT ALL DOCUMENTS ARE LIABLE FOR INTRODUCTION AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION. THE PROSECUTION HAS ARRIVED AT A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DOCUMENTS AND HOW THEY RELATE TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE. IT IS PROBABLE THAT DAVID TRUONG WILL SOON BE RELEASED ON CONFIDENTIAL

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250,000 DOLS BAIL PUT UP BY HIS SISTER AND THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS. THE PROSECUTION HAS CHOSEN USAF BRIGADIER GENERAL BILLY B. FORSMAN, DIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CURRENT INTELLIGENCE, AS ONE OF ITS EXPERT WITNESSES TO TESTIFY ON THE NATIONAL DEFENSE CHARACTER OF THE DOCUMENTS. THE TRIAL BEGINS

MAY 1.

2. CAMBODIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITY (CONF)

VLC IS BECOMING A CLEARING-HOUSE FOR INFORMATION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CAMBODIA. HAVING SUPPLIED BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE BRITISH TO SUPPORT THEIR INITIATIVE IN THE RECENT UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, WE ARE NOW GATHERING MATERIAL FOR A REPORT TO BE PREPARED BY UN STAFF FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE HRC. WE HAVE ALSO PROVIDED UNCLASSIFIED BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CAMBODIA TO A PRIVATE NORWEGIAN ORGANIZATION, THE INTERNATIONAL CAMBODIA TRIBUNAL, WHICH IS HOLDING HEARINGS IN OSLO APRIL 21-23 WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL WITNESSES. OUR CAMBODIA DESK OFFICER AND HA OFFICERS MET THIS WEEK WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE CAMBODIAN ASSOCIATION IN WASHINGTON AT HIS REQUEST AND REVIEWED WITH HIM RECENT INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY ON CAMBODIA, INCLUDING THE HRC ACTION, PREPARATIONS FOR THE PRIVATELY-ORGANIZED NORWEGIAN TRIBUNAL, AND THE RECENT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL APPEAL TO THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT TO RESPOND TO ALLEGATIONS OF CONTINUED SUMMARY KILLINGS BY THE AUTHORITIES IN THAT COUNTRY.

3. PRIVATE SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH VIETNAM

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THREE AMERICAN SCIENTISTS (PROFESSORS LE VAN OF CHICAGO, GALSTON OF YALE AND COOPERMANN OF CALIFORNIA) ARE IN THE FINAL STAGE OF FORMING THE "AMERICAN-VIETNAMESE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE." THE COMMITTEE, WHICH ALREADY OPERATES DE FACTO UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE NEW YORK-BASED "SCIENTISTS INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION" (SIP), WILL ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND VISITS BETWEEN U.S. AND VIETNAMESE SCIENTISTS. MAJOR AREAS OF EMPHASIS WILL BE MEDICINE AND AGRICULTURE. WORKING PRIVATELY (HOPEFULLY WITH MINIMUM FANFARE), THE SPONSORS SEEK TO IMPROVE U.S. RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM THROUGH PROFESSIONAL CONTACT. ALTHOUGH THE USG IS NOT INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM, ITS ORGANIZERS HAVE KEPT VLC ABREAST OF THEIR PLANS. THE FIRST VISIT UNDER THE NEW COMMITTEE WILL BE BY DR. TON THAT THUNG, DIRECTOR OF HANOI'S BACH MAI HOSPITAL, AND MAY TAKE PLACE IN APRIL 1979. ALL THREE U.S. ORGANIZERS HAVE VISITED VIETNAM FOR EXTENDED PERIODS IN THE PAST.

4. CBS DOCUMENTARY ON AGENT ORANGE AND DIOXIN POISONING

ON MARCH 24 DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS VIEWED A CBS DOCUMENTARY

ON THE POSSIBLE LONG-RANGE EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO DIOXIN, AN ELEMENT OF AGENT ORANGE USED IN DEFOLIATION OPERATIONS IN VIETNAM UNTIL 1970. THE FILM CITES PHYSICAL DISABILITIES (ANXIETY, IMPOTENCE, GENETIC DEFORMATION, SPONTANEOUS ABORTION) NOW BEING OBSERVED

IN AMERICAN G.I.'S WHO WERE EXPOSED TO HERBICIDAL SPRAYING IN VIETNAM AND THEIR DEPENDENTS. WHILE STRESSING THAT DIRECT LINKAGE HAS NOT BEEN SCIENTIFICALLY ESTABLISHED, THE FILM PROVIDES EXAMPLES OF SIMILAR EFFECTS CREATED IN LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS ON ANIMALS. IT DESCRIBES SYMPTOMS APPEARING IN HUMANS FOLLOWING ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE TO DIOXIN IN MISSOURI, ARIZONA AND ITALY. FINALLY, IT NOTES THAT IDENTICAL SYMPTOMS ARE

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BEING FOUND BY VIETNAMESE RESEARCHERS EXAMINING POPULATIONS EXPOSED TO DEFOLIANTS.

THE FULL CBS DOCUMENTARY HAS BEEN SHOWN IN CHICAGO WITH EXCERPTS ON CBS NATIONAL NEWS PROGRAMS. NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON AFFILIATES WILL PROBABLY PICK IT UP SOON. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY ON THE AGENT ORANGE QUESTION--NOT TO MENTION THE FAR BROADER IMPLICATIONS OF THE USE OF DIOXIN IN AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY--AND WE CAN EXPECT TO HEAR MORE OF THE VIETNAM DEFOLIATION AFTERMATH ANGLE.

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